

**Muscatine County Historical Preservation Commission
OFFICIAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at noon

Via Zoom using the following link

We continue using the same link for all our Zoom meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8010716532?pwd=ZDhUSjdRN0E3RGhwRW5TY1pXV3oyUT0>

9

Meeting ID: 801 071 6532

Password: 633647

Or by phone

13126266799,,8010716532#,,,,0#,,633647# US (Chicago)

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CDT)

Meeting using zoom platform conforms with CDC guidelines

Call to Order

Roll Call and Guest

Commissioners Present: Allgood, Beveridge, Bosten, Collins, Furlong, Koellner, Ochiltree, Pruitt

Commissioner Absent: Daufeldt (excused)

Guests: Sandy Stevens, Lisa Wertzbaugher

Order of Business

- A. Approval of Agenda- Koellner-Approved
- B. Approval of Minutes- Koellner-Approved
- C. Approval of Financial Report- Allgood-Approved

Old Business

D. Historic Jail Museum Preservation and Reuse Fund0ing -Wertzbaugher, Pruitt

- 1. CLG grant Updates
 - 1. Recommended Architect firm – Wertzbaugher, Pruitt – Three RFPs issued; two proposals submitted; Horizon Architects recommended by Wertzbaugher, Koellner and Pruitt. Motion approved to recommend Horizon Architects to BOS on Monday. Wertzbaugher will finalize subcontract with Paula Mohr and Sherry Seright; then make proposal to BOS on Monday.
- 2. Iowa’s Rural Revitalization grant (potential \$125,000) rejected by host-Wertzbaugher—Reasons given for rejection: Not enough connection to rural Iowa; Timeline not well defined. Wertzbaugher will approach BOS next Monday to keep their committed \$53,500 matching funds for possible HRDP grant of \$50,000 in 2022 (Motion approved for this recommendation). Past plan for \$178,000 Jail construction will be redefined to match potentially available funds of \$103,500.
- 3. Friends of the Old Jail Update-Beveridge

1. Paul Carroll and other sources of local funds will be approached by Beveridge once she gets a letter of authorization from the Commission.
2. Collections of donated funds to be sent to CFGM Pledger name and amount should be given to CFGM for follow-up and collection – (pledge form available from CFGM)
4. Muscatine County Fairgrounds update – Wertzbaugher reported the Fair Board wants to stabilize the Amphitheater; they previously received a proposal of about \$15,000 for structural analysis; she suggested a CLG grant to fund this engineering planning with the Fair Board providing the matching funds; she will provide proposal letter later; Pruitt pointed out we had committed the next CLG grant for the Benjamin Nichols home nomination.
5. Other Action items
 1. Marketing promotion by Musser Library – Collins – Beveridge will provide historic information she has on the old jail.
 2. Potential grants for Historic Jail – none identified.
 3. Other funding sources – none identified.

E. Rural Schools and Churches CLG grant-Daufeldt

1. Contractor update
 1. Draft 1 submitted for Commissioner’s review on April 26 – Some commissioners agreed to provide comments on their review – timeline is June 1
 2. Draft 1 sent to Paula Mohr – Iowa Cultural Affairs for preliminary comments – comments to be received by Tallgrass from Cultural Affairs
2. Additional photos and information collected by commissioners to be sent to Tallgrass by May 24
3. Marketing and signage of Historic schools and churches – – Furlong
 1. Signage update (costs and design) – Furlong talked with Curt Weiss of County Conservation Board, Nature Conservancy, and Iowa Prison Industries to get input on potential signage. Recommend U-shaped steel post and signs similar to Conservation Board. Iowa Prison Industries are best source.
 2. Universal signage policy for MCHPC projects recommended. Minimal information recommended including name, dates and QR Code to reference additional information and a link to our MAGIC layer. A logo may be considered.
 3. County Engineer/State Highway department position on signage location and other details pending from Keith White, County Engineer.
 4. Historic bridges removal and funds available for signage – Pruitt – The County Bridge project for replacement of three potentially historic bridges is moving ahead and is expected to provide about \$10,000 to help with our signage project.
 5. Sign placement plan will eventually need to be approved by County Board of Supervisors
 6. Pruitt suggested considering employing a consultant to guide us through the signage project.

F. Nichols Area Historic Grants Updates- Pruitt

1. Historic Commercial District, Ijem Ave -- National Historic Register designation (October 2020 Letter regarding National Historic Register found April 15)
 - Plans for marker – City agrees to a historic bronze plaque. Allgood will provide info on potential plaques.
 - Press release and photos pending.
2. St. Mary's Church (NHR nomination proposal and contract with Jennifer Price)- MCHPC liaison Pruitt – Church through Gale Kaalberg has signed agreement and they are funding the work.
3. Christian Church – Final evaluation by Jennifer Price in progress.
4. Ben Nichols Home – CLG Grant potential/matching funds – next round of CLG applications – Fall 2021
5. Friends of Nichols Group for funding matches (potential use of funds for NHR signage)

G. MCHPC Meeting with West Liberty Heritage Foundation Trustees - Koellner

1. Tallgrass has a proposal to WLHF for nomination of Heritage Park/Depot to NHR
2. WLHF is working with City Administration in cooperative effort with city of West Liberty to establish CLG status

H. Wilton Historic Neighborhoods – Allgood/ Ochiltree

1. Zoom Meeting held earlier today with Wilton Historic Commission (WHC) to discuss common areas of historic preservation.
2. WHC plans to approach Leah Rogers regarding potential listing of historic churches, Star Drug, Masonic Temple, and German College. They will also get her suggestion on proceeding later with the historic neighborhoods.
3. Ochiltree has over 100,000 historic artifacts for which he needs archives and possible museum presentation. Collins said we may be able to get a grant to digitize some of the written history.

I. Durant Historic Commission - Allgood/ Ochiltree

1. Meeting with Tri-County Historic Commission – Ochiltree and Allgood to arrange meeting to discuss common areas of historic preservation – June date – using zoom platform. (date)

J. Historic Fairport Fish Hatchery Master Plan -Stevens, Pruitt, and Bosten

1. Iowa DNR Updates. IDNR has approved the nomination for designation on the Historic Register, but without any funding. Rebecca McCarley, funded by the Friends Group, submitted HRDP grant application on May 3 with matching funds provided by our Commission at \$6,310.
2. Demolition dates/ contractors and Documentation of Pump House- SulzCo awarded demolition contract for \$18,500 to be completed by June 30 however there may be additional cost to deal with asbestos. Remainder of \$50,000 provided by DNR available to fund pavilion but needs to be finished by 6/30/2022. Friends Group still trying to salvage some distinctive features from the building.

3. Final design MCHPC/DNR of kiosk/pavilion- Friends Group did not receive Carver Foundation grant so other funding required before IDNR finalizes design. Some \$8,000 has been collected by fund raising effort to date.
4. Funding for Kiosk, trails, signage – An application for a DNR/Education Grant is in preparation to cover signage. QR Codes will be used on signage to provide more detailed information. Grant is for \$47,000 with matching in-kind contributions totaling \$39,500.
5. Volunteers from the Commission are needed to help with specific items on the Fish Hatchery. Stevens will send a list of items to Koellner.
6. Partners in projects (National Historic Button Museum, COE, IDNR, MCHPC, Friend of the Hatchery) funding plan including grant sources. Friends Group has letters of support.
7. Stevens mentioned that a contract between the Friends Group and the Art Center had been finalized to do a mural on one of the Houser Street retaining walls depicting the history of the button industry. Design is due mid-June and painting by October 1. Janet Hoopes is doing the creation.
8. Marketing Media (brochure development and media releases) There is a brochure for the Hatchery. Coordinated with Collins
9. Mobile Historic Museum – coordination with history of Muscatine area tour – Collins is checking into the mobile history bus that is available from the State. The commission may need to help with Muscatine County projects creations and this bus could be moved to various sites in the County.... Wilton Freedom Rock, Old Jail, and West Liberty. – but it is likely to only stop in one spot in the county. Furlong and Collins – status of touring plans.

K. Create National Historic Register Inventory for Muscatine County – Collins

1. Plans for development of Inventory

1. Collect existing marketing information from multiple sources
2. Prepare documents for each site – digital with potential paper
3. Update MAGIC with locations of historic places (cemeteries (GenWeb), facilities, districts, transportation, other historic buildings present in the county)

J. Muscatine County Historic Cemeteries – Furlong - possible discussion with cemetery trustees regarding details on cemetery – history – date founded– who is buried – (reserved for later)

K. Plans for 2021

1. Collaborate with Muscatine City Historic Preservation Commission for potential zoom meeting to share common preservation – Beveridge to arrange
2. Location of Grange Halls in Muscatine County – Commissioners who surveyed townships gather historic facts on Halls – reserved for later
3. Transportation in Muscatine County - Stagecoach routes, railroads, depots, ferry crossings, early highways (Highway 6 and travel cabins), interurban from Davenport to Muscatine, old rail depots and supporting buildings and businesses. old bridges – later in 2021-22 – reserved for later

L. **Upcoming Meeting** – June 9 (zoom or in person)

L. Open Discussion -- none